

Sinclair Broadcasting's choice to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary just before a critically close election is a step in the wrong direction for freedom of speech in America.

While I understand that applicable laws may not be in place to stop this misuse of Public Airwaves, there are certain things to consider. Pretend, for a moment, that Sinclair owned 5 times the number of stations it does. Consider then, that it forced its stations to air other anti-Kerry documentaries for say 3 hours a night every night of the two weeks before the election. This would certainly effect the election- perhaps adding 2 million votes to Bush's number. And I think it would call for a deserved public outcry. And yet, while this example is less extreme- what if the result is the same. If this election is tipped to George Bush, and he wins with half a million votes because of it, how is that different than the extreme example, except by the numbers. The result would be the same.

Media-consolidation, as well as not using your agency to regulate politically-motivated forced programming just before the election, seriously worry me as a consumer. I hope you will take this into account. I read that you have already ruled on this issue, please reconsider, and when you do, consider it in the light of the examples I just gave you.

Thank you,